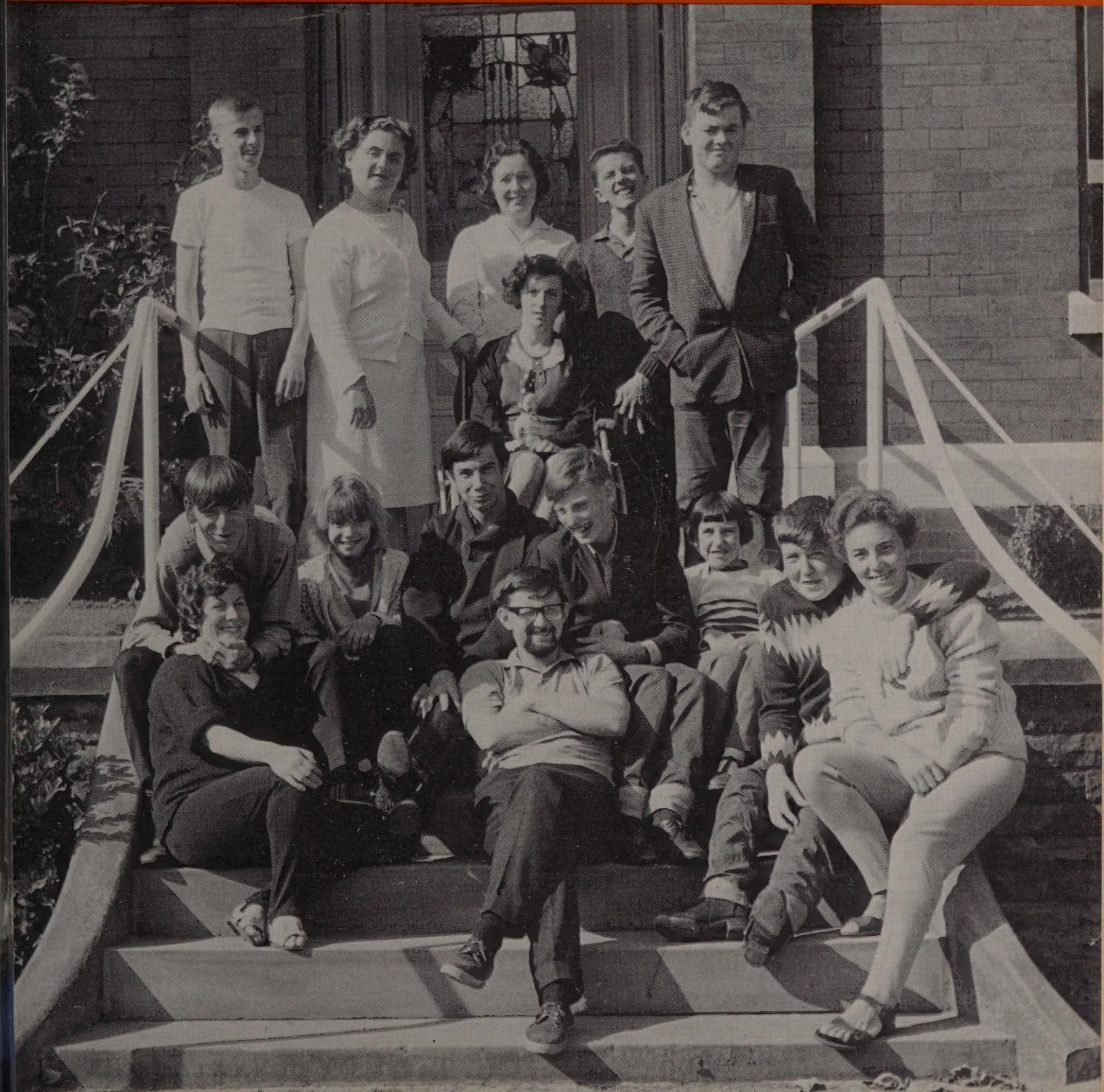


I THIS ISSUE

Shirley Keene
Australia

SPASTICS NEWS

NOVEMBER 1966 PRICE 6d THE MAGAZINE OF THE SPASTICS SOCIETY



U

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SPASTICS NEWS

The magazine of The Spastics Society

November 1966, Vol. XII, No. 11, Price Sixpence. Editor: Oliver Beckett

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Front Cover Picture: RENDEZ-VOUS AT ELLERSLIE COURT: The Smiling Faces Youth Club and the Friendship Club of the Warrington and District Spastics Society photographed when they met at Southport at the end of September. They played games on the beach and made many new friends.

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

12 Park Crescent, London, W.1 Tel. MUSeum 5020

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Shirley Keene in Australia

THE Spastics Children's Society of Victoria set themselves the target of raising double their usual funds for 1966. From a State with a population of two million people the Society raises annually £200,000—this amount being required as running costs for their seven centres which cater for 440 spastics.

There is a vital need to extend facilities, to enlarge existing centres, open more metropolitan and country centres, provide more transport and establish a

radio station and one T.V. station, both commercial, gave free 15-second 'plugs', the latter featuring six of the station's personalities.

I flew out from London to arrive in Melbourne three days before the launching of the appeal, arriving after a journey of nearly two days with about six hours sleep on the way. Some of the pupils of the Society's school called *Marathon* had come in a school bus to meet me at the airport and there were two newspaper photographers and a tele-camera.

When I got to my hotel the A.B.C. 'phoned and cross-examined poor, tired me for material for the accompanying commentary to the movie shots. Finally, they were satisfied and had only just rung off when the morning paper, *The Age*, nabbed me. By this time I was practically talking in my sleep and was most grateful when I read the article next morning, to find that apparently I had made sense.

In the next two days I caught up with my sleep and was able to visit Marathon School, the first floor of which is occupied by The Spastics Society's headquarters. Friday was my first busy day; a television interview in the late afternoon followed closely by the official launching. (T.V. make-up girl did a very glam. job on me! Eye shadow to match my hat.) My part of the launching was the handing over of a personal message from the Duke of Edinburgh to the Governor commanding the appeal. (*Oh dear! forgot to curtsey.*)

After that the pace really hotted up! Monday—taped radio interview at 9 a.m., lecture to a ladies' auxilliary meeting at 1.30 p.m., and A.B.C. television interview 3-4.30 p.m. (This was a mad joblot titled *Matinee*.) There was a doctor talking on bronchitis, a pretty girl skater, a male fashion show and me. I was last on the programme and when the producer sent down an arbitrary note 'Only 4 minutes. Don't over run', the interviewer did some complaining, but no, the producer was adamant, so I fluked another job for Wednesday night at the interviewer's invitation.

On Tuesday I was taken to the Spastics Centre at Bendigo, a country town 100 miles from Melbourne. This is the Society's only country centre at the moment. It caters for twenty-five spastics, comprising a nursery and an adult group. A tele-camera man turned up there too and I wandered round nattering to the workers and was able to get my hands into the magnificent purple dough which the nursery staff had concocted for the tinies



—a whirlwind tour
described in
her own inimitable
way

'village' for severely handicapped adults. Therefore an extra £200,000 for building was the aim.

A huge postal appeal was organised; a mailing of 800,000 envelopes to reach every household and business in the state of Victoria. The appeal was launched by the Governor, Sir Rohan Delacombe, on the 1st July and a massive publicity follow-up was planned so that those envelopes would not gather dust at the backs of cupboards. Open Days were held at all the centres accompanied by full page articles in many magazines and newspapers and television features were arranged.

In Australia there are many more radio and television stations than in England. In addition to the A.B.C. (Australian Broadcasting Commission) there are numerous commercial stations—three T.V. in Melbourne and a number in country areas and anything up to a dozen radio stations throughout the state. One

to model with. Then we popped over to the Bendigo television station and I did another interview—ghastly 'Bride-of-Frankenstein' make-up here!

Only two engagements the following day; attending a film luncheon (this is one of the money raisers—a local cinema is hired for an exclusive film showing and the attending ladies are provided with sherry and a sandwich lunch at 10s. a head) and the A.B.C. television interview arranged on Monday. This one seemed to be the mostly widely viewed of the lot. It was a programme called *People* and the first on the list that evening was film actor Charlton Heston who was playing exhibition tennis matches in Australia. (No I didn't meet him, because he had been done at the Tennis Club.) I came on next. The studio was bitterly cold; no heating and the lights didn't seem to help much, but I was much encouraged to hear the technicians having a little giggle in the background during my stint. The following day I tried to go shopping. I say tried, because people kept on stopping me in the street and stores and chatting to me and I didn't get much done at all.

Meet the Press

On Saturday night the longest of the television interviews took place. This was a half-hour session called *Meet the Press* in which the interviewee is grilled by four journalists. The public relations lady who had organised this made me a little timorous. 'They may cut you to pieces' she said. The secretary of the Society shared this with me and I did my homework and looked forward to a real workout. The whole thing was surprisingly benign however.

Three more television interviews were arranged for the following weeks, one in another country town, and I did a bit of lecturing and visited three centres. The latter really involved more work than it implies, for when visiting a centre I would first talk to the adult residents and then lecture the staff. Both these groups were formidable questioners.

Friday evening I spent in the company of the Rendezvous Club, Melbourne's version of the '62 Club. This large group, most of them very severely handicapped, gave me a most thorough third degree; their vociferous questioning provided me with the most strenuous session I've ever been subjected to.

The following week, my last in Melbourne, was the most wearing of the lot. I did eleven lectures, visiting other centres Ladies' Auxiliaries (these are supporting groups—main function fund-raising—scattered throughout the metropolitan towns and suburbs) and the



(Above) Shirley with one of the children at Bendigo School playing with purple dough to improve hand movements. (Far left), a happy group in the kindergarten class at 'Marathon' School in Melbourne Shirley seen with 'Happy' Hagen who runs a children's T.V. programme

newly-established Therapy College. This is probably unprecedented, in having brought together the three therapies—physio, speech and occupational—under one roof. The colleges had only been in their new home for a matter of weeks and some building was still in progress. It is planned that some lectures will be arranged for students of the three subjects to attend together. I was very thrilled to give the first lecture of this kind, my subject being *Attitude towards the Handicapped*.

The week's work finished on Sunday when the extensions to the Bendigo Centre were officially opened. I found myself shooed to the front of the platform and, thank goodness, the Chairman mentioned in his preamble that one of their visitors, Miss Keene, would be saying a few words later. This was the first Miss Keene had heard of the matter and she had ten minutes of other people's speeches in which to think up one of her own! We got back to Melbourne at about eight in the evening and at eight the following morning I left for Adelaide and my family.

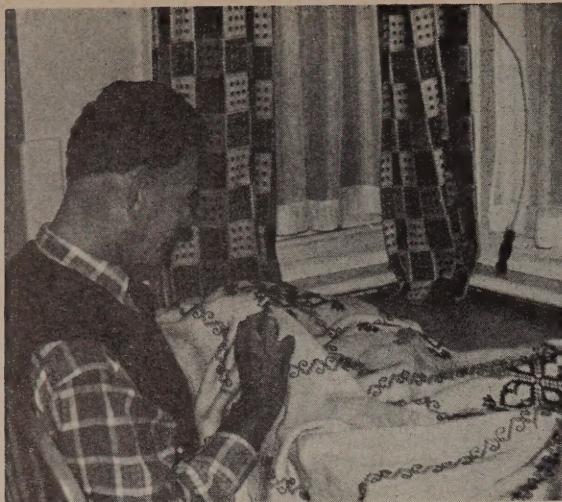
My small niece and nephew had been kept away from school that day to meet their half-remembered aunt. They hung back deprecatingly until they had made up their minds whether they liked me or not. Thank goodness, they did! I had eight days in Adelaide, almost more hectic than the 'work' in Melbourne. So many people to see, the new batches of children to meet, all the gaps in my friends' histories that letters never fill in.

Didn't have time to see The Spastics Society in Adelaide. Too busy. Flew back to Melbourne to catch my ship and start the long, long voyage home. (Spent longer getting back to England than I spent in Australia.)

It was most stimulating being with The Spastics Society in Melbourne. They are tremendously hard working. There is far less government aid than in England—the Education Department provides teaching staff and there is a little help with transport—the Society must meet all other costs. If accommodation is provided, the only means of receiving financial help is to register the hostel as a nursing home and staff it with nurses. Then sixteen shillings a bed a day is paid by the Hospital Authorities. The Government contributed to this current appeal the amount of \$20,000, the equivalent paid annually by Education Authorities in this country for ten spastics attending our schools.

In these circumstances the Spastic Societies in Australia have even more difficulties than those experienced here. Of course, as is the case in Britain, when providing facilities for ineducable children, those under the age of five and day care for adults, there is no grant at all.

I am happy to say that when I left Australia about £130,000 had already come in—the result of magnificent planning and unremitting hard work by a small staff who rarely do less than a 13-hour day. I was assured that my contribution had helped.



Michael Humphrey at work embroidering

An Embroidered Bedspread

MICHAEL HUMPHREY, who goes to the embroidery classes at the Hamilton House Day Centre, run by the Brighton, Hove & District Society, recently completed a magnificent bedspread which was raffled for £50 at a Fair in Haywards Heath. His mother, Mrs. C. E. Humphrey, sent the photo herewith as an example of the kind of work done and as an appreciation of the hard work and patience of the tutor, Mrs. Washer.

'Wendy' and the 'Saint'

WENDY, The Spastics Society's dark-haired collecting doll has just been to Boreham Wood Studios for her first film role.

She will appear with Roger Moore in 'Flight Plan'—a film in the Saint series.

The film is being shot in colour, and will be seen by television viewers throughout the world, including the United States. In Britain, of course, it will be seen in black and white.

Wendy's chance came when the film team were planning a 'typical' English street scene on the studio lot. It was decided the scene would be more authentic with one of The Spastics Society's collecting dolls, which are such a familiar sight in shops and restaurants throughout Britain.

The studio telephoned the Society's headquarters at 12 Park Crescent and 'Wendy' immediately went to the studio accompanied by the Assistant Appeals Secretary, Mr. James Allen.

New Editor

IN THE NEWSLETTER received from the North Surrey Spastics Society came news of the new Editor who has been writing and producing this information sheet. She is Miss Madeleine Pilditch of 37a Washington Road, Worcester Park, Surrey, and is a complete newcomer to

views . . . news and view

our ranks, having had no previous connection with us. She is being made very welcome by the Group who hope she will enjoy her work with them.

If any one in the area has any news which they think could be usefully included at any time, please send it direct to her.

Leicester Volunteers Praised

THE LEICESTER & DISTRICT Spastics Society held its Annual General Meeting in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, Leicester, on 20th September, and was very fortunate to have the Lord Mayor of Leicester, Councillor Mrs. Monica Trotter, take the chair.

After the business proceedings, the Chairman of the Leicester Council of Social Services, D. Cameron Esq., M.A., addressed the meeting giving an outline of the Council's aims and purpose. He

paid tribute to the work undertaken by the Leicester Group and said, among other things, that the Council could not hope to provide such a specialised service as that given by the Leicester volunteers and the officers of the Group.

The Society arranged a publicity tent at the City of Leicester Show in September which aroused great interest among the visitors to the show. A large number of people visited the tent and showed a very keen interest in the national and local photographs of the centres and schools run by The Spastics Society and local Groups. The group even made a small profit, although that was not the object of the operation.

Bath and District Active

A 'BRING AND BUY' coffee-morning arranged by Bath and District Spastics Society at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Snook, was attended by 60 people and raised the satisfactory total of £28.



GARDEN PARTY AT CRAIG-Y-PARC

A fine day in September saw twenty-seven colourful stalls laid out in the grounds for all kinds of commodities, manned by local well-wishers. The School Treasurer, Mr. G. C. Morgan, assisted by Mr. S. P. Northan, Vice-Chairman of the Management Committee, reported a total of £509 as a result of the Party, which is to be spent on equipment

. news and views . . . ne

This is only one of several similar events planned by this active group, writes Mr. R. Randall, the Press Secretary.

They have also brought a Bath boy from the residential handicapped children's school in Yorkshire where he has been for several years, to a similar, newly-opened school at Taunton, Somerset, where it will be easier for his family to visit him.

'Hoping it will Help Others'

COOMBE FARM resident, Victor Hancox, has had one of his landscapes accepted and hung in an art exhibition run by the United Society of Artists in London.

Twenty-four-year-old Victor, who, as many know, is severely handicapped in speech and movement, has been painting for some years, by means of a brush affixed to his helmet and mixes his own colours.

His picture, 'A Windy Day', was put forward by the Centre's visiting art teacher, Mr. Richard Walker, who holds a weekly class there, but accepted by the selection committee entirely on its merits.

Victor sent us a cutting from the *Evening News* in the hope that his success would help others in their painting efforts.

Slough and District Spastics Society

THE FETE WAS held at Bayliss House, Slough, by kind permission of Urwick Orr & Partners, and the celebrity was Jack Howarth, Albert Tatlock of 'Coronation Street'. He and his wife came and spent the whole afternoon there, and helped to raise a total of £250. The day was a very fine one, sandwiched in between two dreadful days, and with drums and fifes from Camberley and a local coloured group of West Indians, it was a very pleasant afternoon.

Popular Donkey Derby

HIGH WYCOMBE Round Tablers—always active for charity—backed a winner when they put on a Donkey Derby at Wycombe Show. Eight races were run and even the donkeys seemed willing. The odds paid out here for equipment for the Hammersley Lane Spastics Centre should be about £150.

Miss Tasmania Visits Centres

'I FEEL just as though I had been visiting two happy families.'

That was the comment made by Miss Amanda Radcliffe, this year's Miss Tasmania, after spending a day at the Paddington Works Centre and the Watford Centre.

Nineteen-year-old Amanda, who won the title for beauty, poise and dress-sense, is deeply interested in work for spastics and during her stay in Britain—part of her prize—she is gathering new ideas to take back to Australia.

'It's this family atmosphere in the Centres that impresses me most so far,' she declared.

In fact she has become so interested in the Spastics Society that she has asked to visit more schools and centres, and has given up one of her few free evenings to knock down a pile of pennies at a Watford hotel.

During her Watford visit she was entertained to a classic English lunch of steak and kidney pie. At Paddington she was presented with a bouquet by Lynda Crisp and given a tea of American cookies specially baked by one of the parents.

The penny knock-down took place in the Malden Hotel, Watford, where customers five months ago swore—literally—to help spastics. Every time one of them uttered a swear word he had to add a penny to the pile.

Carriage (with Coachmen) for Wedding Hire

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE to convey your daughter to her wedding in the splendour of an 1840 Victorian open carriage, complete with uniformed coachmen and footman—and then have the newly-weds return from church to the reception in the same style?

If the idea appeals to you, you should contact Mr. Garfield Cox of Wellington, because he is now providing such a ser-



Nineteen-year-old Amanda Radcliffe photographed on the steps of a fire engine during her visit to Watford, when she went to the Centre

vice at £15 a time. It is all part of his effort as secretary of Wellington Appeal for Spastics, to raise £1000 this year for charity.

The service is arranged by Mr. Cox, in co-operation with Mr. F. Stubbings, of Stapley, who owns the coach and put forward the idea to help Mr. Cox raise money. Eighty per cent of the £15 fee will go towards charity, the remainder will cover expenses.

'My daughter went to church to be married in a Rolls Royce', said Mr. Cox, 'And I thought that some other fathers might be interested in providing their daughters with something out of the ordinary on this most important day in their lives.'

(Courtesy: Somerset County Gazette)

Raised over £54 for Spastics

IN THE LAST SEVEN YEARS, a 14-year-old Halifax girl has raised more than £54 for Halifax and District Spastics Society. Sheila Beckett of 300a Hopwood Lane, Halifax, contributed £8 15s. od. to the spastics fund this month after a bring-and-buy sale she organised with her friend, Brenda Lewell.

Mr. Eric Greenwood Vice-Chairman of the Halifax Society says that this must be a record amount for one person to have raised in the area.

(Courtesy: Halifax Evening Courier and Guardian)

EMPLOYMENT NEWS

MARY HARRON from Iver, has commenced employment with the Neptune Paper Co. Ltd. in Uxbridge—she will receive training there to become a Tickopres operator.

JOHN HILL from Kirkby, has changed his job and is now doing manual and clerical work in the stores of a firm on the Kirkby Industrial estate.

WINIFREDA LARKIN who recently completed a course at the Industrial Rehabilitation Unit at Egham, has commenced work in Hounslow.

GEORGE LINFORD from Romford, has changed his job and is now working for a firm in Bow.

DOUGLAS LURTON from Enfield, who trained at Sherrards, is now employed locally as a machine shop worker.

COLIN MACKENZIE from Felixstowe, is commencing work at the Orwell Hotel, Felixstowe, at the end of October.

JENNIFER MANN from Hitchin, has commenced employment with an Insurance Company near Hitchin.

DAVID MATTHEWS from Abergel, is now on the permanent staff of Remploy.

PAULINE PORTMANS from London, is working for a firm of wig-makers in Buckingham Palace Road.

DAVID ROPER from Cardiff, has returned to his previous work at the Victoria Laundry.

ALICE STOTT from Manchester, has been doing office work for Trafford's Warehouse for the past 18 months since leaving school.

LINES IN MEMORY OF A HAPPY HOLIDAY

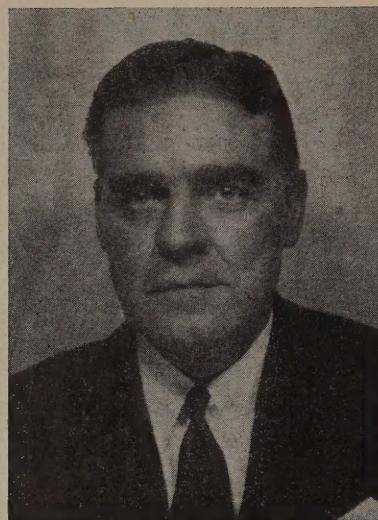
We always come to Bowleaze,
Each year in early May,
And the sounds of so much laughter,
Cheers all our pains away.
The wheelchairs round the ballroom,
The songs we love to hear,
But most of all the laughter,
And the friends we make each year.

If ever you feel lonely,
If ever you feel sad,
You'd better come to Bowleaze,
It's fabulously mad.
It's always fine at Bowleaze,
Except when it is wet,
But blast the weather forecast,
It's never damped us yet!

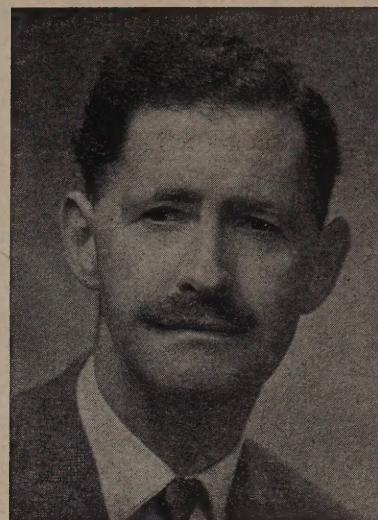
By MISS N. BRANNIGAN (County Director of the B.R.C.S. Dorset)

(With apologies to "When Irish Eyes are Smiling")

NEW REGIONAL OFFICERS



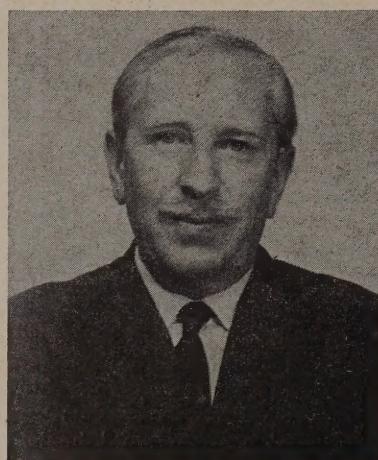
Mr. G. R. Christie



Mr. N. J. Goldfrap

The new North-West Regional Officer is Mr. G. R. Christie, who is a North Countryman. He has had wide experience in industry and charitable undertakings, and has travelled extensively including a spell in Southern Rhodesia.

He has taken an active interest in Youth Work in the East End of London and in the suburbs for many years.



Mr. Peter J. H. Pope

The new West Regional Officer is Mr. Peter J. H. Pope, and is himself a West Countryman. He was at Clifton and Sandhurst and was commissioned in 1936, serving in Burma during the war.

He retired from the Staff College in 1958, and up to 1964 was in industry, then he joined a firm of professional fund-raisers. He is married with four children.



Mr. J. A. Macdonald Henderson

The new Regional Officer for South London is Mr. J. A. Macdonald Henderson, who until recently was associated with The Cheshire Homes.

He was at Charterhouse and Jesus College, Cambridge, went into the family business until 1935 and thence into advertising. He was a pilot in the R.A.F.V.R. during the war, and since then has held executive positions in civil aviation.

Yorkshire meets at Harrogate

DEVELOPMENTS IN LEEDS AND YORK

THE fog prevented us from starting out on our journey . . . this and other similar messages were received at the Regional Office following the Conference held at the Hotel St. George, Harrogate, on Sunday, 9th October, and which was presided over by Lady Westbury. It is heartening to record, however, that in spite of the difficult weather conditions prevailing in many areas of the county the Conference was attended by 110 persons from all parts of Yorkshire and included in that number were members of groups, representatives of Local Health, Welfare and Education Departments, Youth Employment Officers and members of the nursing and teaching profession. Once again this year the introduction of a special theme was dispensed with in order that a variety of subjects could be included in the programme to cater for varying interests.

Presenting his Annual Report, the Chairman of the Regional Advisory Committee, Mr. J. W. Crosby, touched upon the work undertaken by the Committee during its first year of office and gave brief details of developments in the Region. Particular reference was made to the Work Centre being constructed at Leeds which is nearing completion and will come into operation in January of next year, and the project at York which will probably be brought into use next December and will provide short term residential care facilities for children. The opportunity was taken to express thanks to members of groups and to their Committees for their efforts on behalf of spastics throughout the year.

During the morning session Mr. J. A. Loring, Assistant Director (Services to Spastics) delivered a lecture on 'The Organisation of Education for the Cere-

brally Palsied' which was illustrated with slides depicting some interesting statistics.

At the afternoon session the speakers were Dr. Richard Pugh, M.R.C.P., Consultant Paediatrician, Victoria Hospital for Sick Children, Hull, on 'The Hemiplegias of Childhood' and Mr. Peter Furniss (Organiser), a young person developing voluntary work by young people in the city of Sheffield on 'Youth Action in Sheffield'.

An address by Dr. C. P. Stevens, M.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., Director of The Spastics Society, concluded the Conference and, what was termed by many, a most interesting day.

R.J.F.W.

East Anglia at Meldreth

OVER 150 EAST ANGLIANS attended the Regional Conference at Meldreth Training School, near Royston, on 16th October. This total includes representatives of local health, welfare, education and hospital authorities and members of the medical profession. Mrs. Rowden Briggs (Chairman, Cambridge and Isle of Ely Disabled Persons Sub-Committee) presided.

Everyone took advantage of the pleasant weather to inspect the school and judging by the complimentary remarks heard, were much impressed both with the school and the Society's educational programme for it.

The Chairman of the Regional Advisory Committee, Mr. J. L. Bowles, opened the meeting in a packed hall, and the Principal, Mr. G. Crabb, welcomed delegates and introduced Mr. Derek Lancaster-Gaye, the Society's Development Secretary.

Mr. Lancaster-Gaye's theme was co-operation between the Society and Local Authorities. 'While they have done much' he declared, 'They could do still more. We must work as closely as possible with



(North Western Evening Mail)

The Society's Mobile Exhibition Vehicle visited Barrow-in-Furness earlier in the year and although the site was not entirely suitable made a good impression. Here the Society's representative is pointing out the exhibits to the Mayor, Councillor William Gabbatt. Mr. Rose, the Chairman of the local group and his members were extremely helpful

them for the competition between priorities both for land and money is intense'.

Mr. James Loring, Assistant Director Services, took up the same theme when he pointed out that the Society meets 50 per cent of the cost of caring for spastics, but part of this could quite properly be borne by Local Authorities. 'Our achievement', he said, 'has been quite considerable but we cannot take all the responsibility. We must share it with others'.

He went on to stress the need for a national survey of mentally handicapped spastics, for there was a large number in the mentally subnormal range, but without such a survey it was very difficult to plan for the future.

Meldreth was the first school of its kind to take on the dual problem of mental and physical disability.

In the afternoon session, Dr. Grace Woods, Consultant Psychiatrist and Medical Administrator of St. Ebba's Hospital, Epsom, gave an interesting talk on 'How much should a doctor tell the family', in her usual lucid and kindly manner.

Space does not allow for a report of the Brains Trust which provoked lively discussion. At the A.G.M. prior to the meeting Messrs. J. L. Bowles, G. F. Howard, A. M. Acheson, T. Read and Mrs. P. M. Winkley, were elected to serve as members of the Regional Advisory Committee for the forthcoming year.

The North at Sunderland Work Centre—in a fog

AN almost unprecedent period of 14 days without rain came to an end on the morning of the Conference which was dark and dismal with hill fog thrown in for good measure! even so more than a hundred persons turned up at the Sunderland Work Centre, including, we were glad to see, about a dozen spastic members and others from as far afield as Berwick-on-Tweed and Carlisle, to hear Dr. E. Ellis speak in the morning on 'The Care of Spastic Children' and Bill Hargreaves in the afternoon on 'Spastics and Society'.

The Conference Chairman, Alderman Sir Jack Cohen, in his opening remarks praised The Spastics Society for the work it was doing and said that he felt sure that the Conference would attract others to help in 'this great crusade for looking after people who cannot look after themselves'.

Dr. Ellis, who is the Medical Director

of the Percy Hedley Centre for Spastics in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, then began his talk by defining the word 'Spastic' used in its medical or neurological sense, he said, it describes increased tone or tension in a muscle, but we all knew that there was more to a spastic child than stiff limbs; the brain which controls the limbs had either failed to develop normally or had been damaged at some time in its development. It was the effect of this injury on the child's subsequent development which was our concern.

To talk about development therefore introduces a time factor into our definition. For practical purposes the definition is limited to those injuries to the brain which occur in the intra-uterine period before and during the first five years of life.

The brain injury sometimes remains localised but usually spills over into other areas of the brain so that spastic children may also suffer from abnormal sensation and faulty visual perception or hearing, and it is not surprising that these associated defects seriously interfere with learning at school where the ability to recognise the difference between the shapes and sizes of letters and figures becomes so important.

He went on to discuss the size of the problem which spastic children present to the community in which we live. He said that the answer seems to depend upon who we are and where we live.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Survey

The results of a survey he had carried out in 1954 of spastic children living in the city of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, the County of Northumberland and the city of Carlisle, suggested that the incidence of cerebral palsy amongst children of school age was 1 per 1,000, on this basis it could be calculated that out of the Regional total of 3,000,000 people there would be 700 children with cerebral palsy of all grades of severity aged 16 years and under. The biggest group amongst all handicapped children, however, is the intellectually retarded since it is reckoned that 1 in every 10 school children is backward. Of the cases included in his survey two-thirds were mildly disabled and only one-sixth severely disabled, but nearly two-thirds had limitation of intelligence.

The North-West meets at Daresbury

DARESBURY HALL in its rolling Cheshire parkland was the venue for this year's North West Regional Advisory Committee's Annual General Meeting and Conference. It was in the Lewis Carroll Unit, so named because Daresbury village was the birthplace of this author, that this gathering of our Groups representatives and our friends took place on Saturday, 15th October.

The thing which made this General Meeting special was that it marked the point in time when the old North West Region became two. This amoebic reproduction gives us the Manchester Region and the Merseyside and North Wales Region, and the Chief Regional Officer explained in detail the events which led up to this division.

Mr. W. Brown, the retiring Chairman, gave a very full and interesting account of the year's work of the Regional Advisory Committee.

The Conference, presided over by Mrs. L. Stockdale, M.B.E., started with a brief history of Daresbury Hall from the

Warden, Mr. F. W. Bellman. Then Dr. R. J. Derham, the Consultant in Charge of the Spastic Unit at Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool, spoke on '*A Visit to Berne and Florence*'. His talk stressed how imperative very early diagnosis is and highlighted the differences in facilities for diagnosis and treatment in these continental centres and in Britain.

The first of the two afternoon speakers was The Rev. John Wall who spoke on 'Young People in Voluntary Social Work', and had some hard-hitting things to say about older committee members who invite young people to serve only to squash them from the outset.

Mrs. E. M. Milnes, Secretary of the Manchester and District Spastics Society, gave a talk which most of those present agreed was the highlight of the day. This set out the emotional problems of belonging to a spastics family, for although the title was 'Parents' Problems' Mrs. Milnes has remarkable insight for the problems of unhandicapped siblings.

Dr. Ellis went on to ask what could be done about cerebral palsy? The parents, he said, were the first link in the chain of management; it might well be said that the most important factor in the life of a young disabled child is the attitude of his parents to his disability.

It was the doctor's task to help the parents to accept the full significance of his diagnosis but this should be a gradual process and when the parents have accepted the situation their attention will turn to treatment. In cerebral palsy however, this word 'treatment' can be dangerous as it implies the prospect of a cure and this blinds the parents to the incurable nature of the condition.

To obtain the best results, Dr. Ellis said therapists should not concentrate on motor development alone but should try to stimulate sensory perception by using suitable toys and materials such as dough and plasticine, sand and water, in conjunction with the nursery school teacher. Therapists too should explain to the parents how they can assist with their child's development at home. Ideally, treatment should begin by the age of six months so that abnormalities which become more obvious as the untreated child grows older can either be prevented or diminished.

Continued Treatment Frustrating

The exact age when a child will reach maximum improvement will depend on a number of factors including the age when treatment began, the interest and determination of the parents and the severity of his disabilities, but in every child a point is reached in later childhood when continued treatment will be frustrating both to the therapist and the child and at this point those responsible must have the courage to discontinue it and substitute for it activities which will keep the child moving and which are best described as 'physical education'.

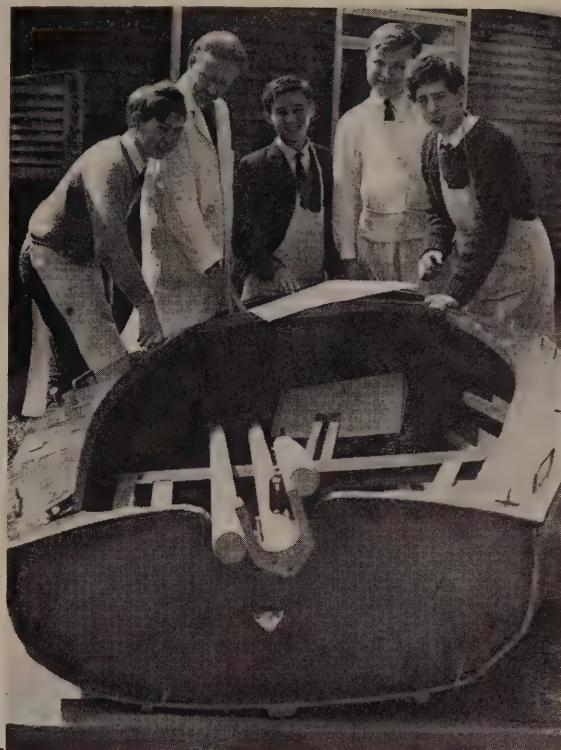
Finally, Dr. Ellis went on to talk of education. More than half the children in his survey were attending normal schools or open-air schools. In 1954 he estimated that 10 per cent of all spastic children aged 5 to 16 years needed to be admitted to special schools; this meant 20 places for every million of the total population, 60 places altogether for the Region. As regards employment only 5 of the 44 who have left the Percy Hedley School are in open employment, the rest are attending day work centres.

If we needed a minimum of 20 places in one of these specialised schools for every million of the total population we will need at least four times that number of places in day work centres; this may mean that we shall require 80 places in Newcastle, 80 in Middlesbrough, 40 in Sunderland and 30 each in Carlisle and Durham.

DENE PARK STUDENTS BUILD A DINGHY

A team of six boys at Dene Park Further Education Centre, Tonbridge in Kent, have built a first-rate 11 ft. 6 ins. mahogany dinghy for use by the Centre's Adventure Club. Made under the supervision of the Centre's woodwork master, Mr. S. R. Furnish, it was successfully launched on the River Medway at Yalding. The Principal, Mr. P. K. Mayhew, said it had taught the boys some of the skills of boat-building and also given them an end-product of which they could make use. The boat was built to a design by a naval architect and has a two-section mast of spruce and can be used for racing with a Bermuda rig. It is fitted with special handles so that it can easily be carried by six boys. £30 was donated by the employees of the Borough Green firm of Neelite Ltd. towards the cost of materials.

(Tonbridge Free Press)



After Dr. Ellis had answered several questions the members got down to a packed lunch, returning at 2 o'clock to hear Bill Hargreaves put in a most eloquent plea for a spastic to be respected as a person first and a spastic second.

Six Main Problems

The six main problems that a spastic adolescent had to deal with, he said, were, a feeling of insecurity, immaturity, uncertainty, self-consciousness, loneliness and fearfulness. So long as people do all the thinking for spastics they were always going to feel out of it, even those with jobs were still very lonely, their environment was often wrong. In an attempt to make spastics more self-reliant the first '62 Club was formed in 1962 with a membership of 40 young men and women who, from the start, were left to fend for themselves and the movement had developed to such an extent that there were now 32 Clubs in the country. Members had taken part in camping under canvas with no able-bodied persons present to help them; others had visited the continent, again unaccompanied and gone on working holidays and this year a Conference had been held at Nottingham University which had been attended by 200 spastic men and women, 17 of them from Europe and Canada, and a second Conference was planned to be held next year at Reading University.

Mr. Hargreaves ended by saying 'We who are spastics will show you what we can do. Therefore let us do things on our own, release us from the bondage of our own handicaps'.

After a short break the next 40 minutes were spent in asking an imposing panel of experts questions which they dealt with both lucidly and efficiently, and then Sir Jack brought the Conference to a close.

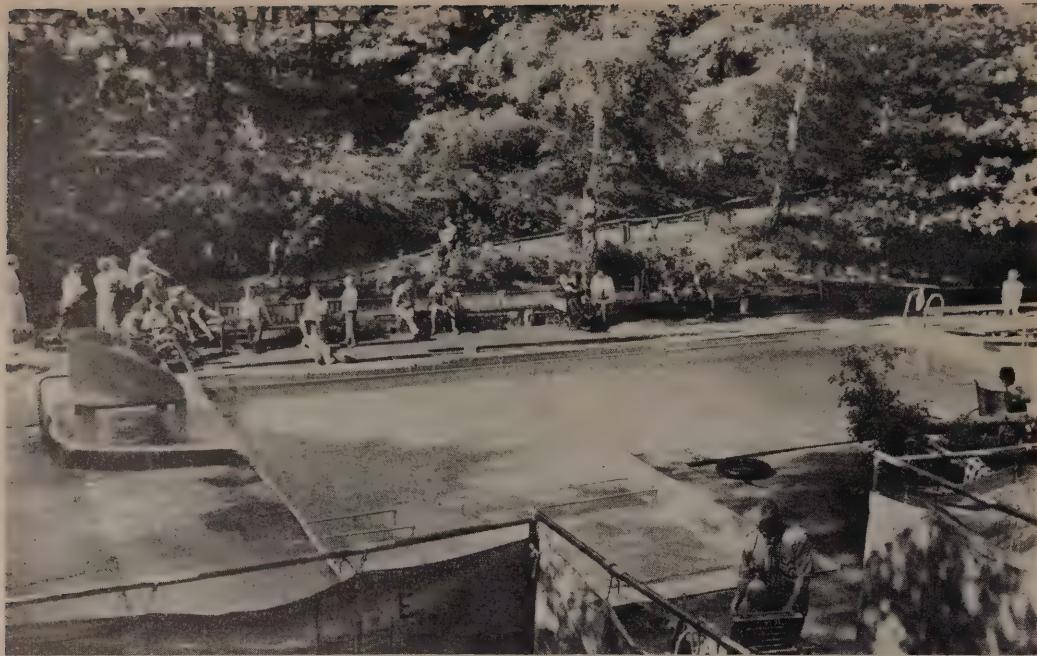
After a welcome cup of tea, however, business still went on; those who had not had time to go round the Work Centre in the morning did so now and were greatly impressed with the many ingenious aids. Mr. Williams, who is an engineer, had designed to help the workers overcome their disabilities. The rest remained for the Region's first Annual General Meeting at which the R.A.C. Chairman, Mr. A. W. Martin, gave a report on the Committee's and the Groups' activities during the past year.

Finally, at five o'clock, it was all over; the staff of the Centre and their volunteer helpers, after so heroically feeding the multitude, got down to feeding themselves and the rest of us went home.

Undoubtedly the Conference did much to bring the Groups in the Region closer together and its success augurs well for the future.

Many thanks to all those whose help made it possible.

E. O.K.



The magnificent swimming-pool at Woodlarks Camp, near Farnham in Surrey, is ideally placed in a dell in the woods with every possible convenience for the handicapped, such as a chair attached with a rope to a winch so that it can be gently propelled down a slope into the water

Another Happy Camp at Woodlarks

BILL HARGREAVES organised another holiday under canvas for about thirty spastics in September that was fortunate in the weather and also in the health and happiness of the campers.

All camp work is carried out by the visitors themselves on a rota basis; one lot are responsible for laying tables and clearing away, another for the sanitary arrangements, and another for tent-rigging, etc. Mrs. Hargreaves and her son were also there to help things along. An enormous bonfire was prepared when the Editor visited the site which must have made a fine blaze that evening.

Bill was very pleased that David Kossoff's T.V. appeal for funds for heating the Pool had gone well over the target figure which will enable them to effect other improvements.

The campers came from all over the country and usually get to Woodlarks on their own—and book up again for next year.

O.R.B.

The Staff Equipment Group Discuss Washing-up . . .

DO YOU PREFER *washing up* crockery to *drying*? Are there many of us who do not mind washing dishes, but only a few who enjoy using a tea towel?

Mr. F. W. Bellman, the Warden at Daresbury Hall Centre, was speaking about dish-washing at the October meeting of the Society's Staff Equipment Group. Controversy still rages on the blessings, or otherwise, of dish-washing machines but Mr. Bellman side-stepped this issue to suggest that what was really needed was a drying cabinet where washed crockery and cutlery could drain and dry—a process to be aided by electrically-produced hot air circulated by fans. Given this piece of equipment, he said, one could achieve a clean and dry plate which would be warm at meal times.

Mr. Bellman's further point was that with plenty of hot water, and modern detergents, dish-washing was not a dis-tasteful operation. With a cabinet of the type he described one could dispense with the task of drying.

This was just one of the many interesting topics discussed at the meeting.

A prototype wall-mounted mirror for make-up was on view, and a few amendments in design were considered. Finally this mirror will be used in girls' dormi-

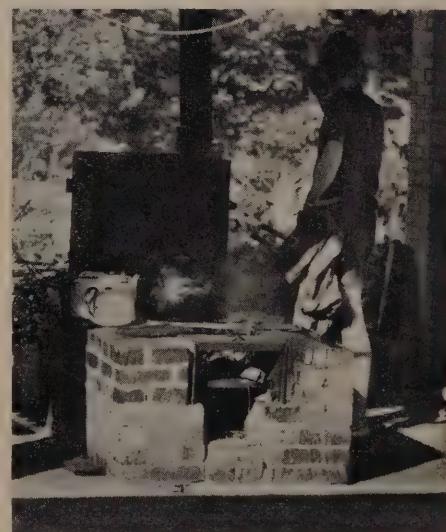
tories, occupied by three or four, which will save on space and cost.

Miss Rosemary Dawson-Shepherd gave her views on tape-recording equipment.

A prototype geriatric chair was submitted for inspection by one firm, and an interesting discussion ensued on points which members thought should be incorporated. Firms making equipment for the handicapped are only too pleased to have constructive criticism before an item goes into production. In this respect the Society's Equipment Group can do valuable work. One piece of equipment badly needed is an adjustable table to take an electric typewriter. The Equipment Group secured the interest of one firm who are now producing a prototype and this table will be considered at the next meeting.

The meeting was attended by: Mrs. C. A. Clifton (Schools & Centres Secretary), Miss E. M. Varty (Headmistress, Ingfield Manor School), Mrs. C. Brown (Warden, Ponds Home), Mr. F. W. Bellman (Warden, Daresbury Hall Centre), Mr. N. K. Summers (Deputy Secretary, Centres), Mr. C. G. Carroll (Asst. Architectural Adviser), Mr. N. D. Elwes (Appliance Officer), Miss R. Dawson-Shepherd, Miss S. Keene (Supplies Dept.), Mr. J. H. Roake (Asst. Supplies Officer) and Mr. M. A. Mitchell (Supplies Officer).

M.A.M.



Even with the somewhat primitive cooking arrangements outside the canteen, good meals are prepared, and they wouldn't swap for a gas cooker for anything!

Getting into Bed—

New Style



'THE OWNERS MANUAL', produced by Zimmer Orthopaedic Limited, Zimmer House, 176-8 and 134 Brompton Road, London, S.W.3, has been very ably produced to give instruction to the Everest and Jennings wheelchair-user on how to make the most of their wheelchair.

We have obtained permission to reproduce this series of photographs and instructions each month, as I feel that the excellent photographic strip is of general interest to all wheelchair-users. The demonstrator in this first strip has been a polio victim for 20 years and is completely paralysed below the waist. She has slight residual disability in her left arm and her weight is approximately 138 lbs.

Front approach to the bed using chair with fixed arms



1 Move chair to face the bed leaving room to lift legs



2 Raise first the right leg and then the left onto the bed



3 Move chair closer to the bed and apply brakes

Bed to wheelchair:
Read pictures in reverse sequence

Data: Height of Bed $23\frac{1}{2}$ in. Height of wheelchair seat with cushion 21 in.



4 Legs are moved round to diagonal position and weight is moved towards the front of the wheelchair seat



5 Using knuckles of right hand and gripping left armrest, transfer to bed

Compiled by
N. D. B. Elwes

'A very worthwhile job'—the Minister of Agriculture opens Thorngrove Farm

THE Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Frederick Peart, is liable to call in at Thorngrove Agricultural Work Centre at any time of the day or night. For, after officially opening the Centre, he was presented with the only spare key to the front door and given the 'Freedom of Thorngrove' by the Warden, Mr. A. G. King.

Earlier, watched by a large number of film, T.V. and Press cameras, Mr. Peart had unveiled a commemorative plaque.

'The men and women here are demonstrating that, despite their handicap, they can do a very worthwhile job' he told the crowded audience.

'In my job as Minister of Agriculture I find myself talking a lot about unit costs and the efficiency of scale—and as some of you here may know, I am making a great drive for the re-structuring of our agricultural industry to ensure its increasing business efficiency. But—and this I freely admit—farming is also a way of life, and to the people of Thorngrove this is important.'

Mr. Peart said Thorngrove could count on the unfailing help and assistance of the National Agricultural Advisory Service.

'Thorngrove is unique' he added. 'I understand it is the first of its kind in the world. It is a matter of great pride to us all that The Spastics Society of Great Britain should be responsible for another valuable step forward in this field of work for handicapped people. I think we can honestly say that in this field Great Britain leads the world.'

Mr. Peart was thanked by Dr. C. P. Stevens, Director of The Spastics Society.

Seconding, Mr. King said it was the intention of everyone at Thorngrove to

be good farmers and to practise good husbandry.

'We intend to make our small contribution to the nation's economy' he declared. 'We also want to be accepted in the farming community as good farmers and to build our farm on the same traditions as good farmers have in this country for many generations.'

'Blame the Minister'

'We also want the rights and privileges that all good farmers enjoy—the right, when the forces of nature such as weather, pests and disease conspire against us to bemoan our rotten bad luck and probably blame the Minister of Agriculture. And the right, when those same forces contrive in a good season to produce good results, publicly to congratulate ourselves on how particularly clever we have been'.

The address of welcome was given by Mr. H. W. Palmer, Hon. Treasurer of the Executive Committee of The Spastics Society. The Archdeacon of Dorset led prayers and blessed the Centre.

After tea guests toured the house, a Victorian mansion set in 39 acres of parkland. The Friesian bull and heifer calves and the 70 pigs got much attention, as did the 30 tons of hay, made and carted by the Thorngrove residents themselves and now neatly baled in the barn.

At present there are only eleven spastics—nine men and two girls—living at Thorngrove. But soon there will be 35, and Thorngrove will be able to launch its full programme of market gardening, egg production, raising pigs and fattening calves.

June Sampson
(Information Officer).

BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER ● ● ●

NOVEMBER

1st	Woodheys Club, Washway Road, Sale, Cheshire	J. Rea and K. Kennerley
2nd	Roundhay Cons., Sutherland Avenue, Leeds	J. Rea and K. Kennerley
3rd	Doncaster Cons., South Parade, Doncaster	J. Rea and K. Kennerley
4th	Memorial Club, Market Street, Chapel en le Frith	J. Rea
4th	Newark Cons. Club, Carter Gate, Newark-on-Trent	K. Kennerley
7th	British Legion, Wilfred Street, Walkden, Manchester	J. Gardner and J. Rea
8th	Cobden Liberal, Walmersley Road, Bury	J. Gardner and J. Rea
8th	Fleckney Workmen's, Fleckney, Leicester	K. Kennerley
9th	Queen's Park Workmen's, Audley Raye, Blackburn	J. Gardner and J. Rea
10th	English Martyrs Men's Club, St. Georges Road, Preston	J. Gardner and J. Rea
11th	Central Cons. Club, Church Street, Horwich, Bolton	J. Gardner and J. Rea
14th	Clayton Workmen's, Dargai Street, Clayton, Manchester	J. Gardner and J. Rea
15th	Gorton Cons., Gorton Lane, Manchester	J. Gardner and J. Rea
15th	Pudsey Cons., Chapeltown, Pudsey, Yorks	K. Kennerley
15th	Cons. Club, Earle Street, Newton le Willows, Lancs.	J. Gardner and J. Rea
16th	Harehills Liberal, Foundry Approach, Leeds 9	K. Kennerley
17th	Pemberton Cons., Lamberhead Green, Wigan	J. Gardner and J. Rea
18th	Haydock Cons., Church Road, Haydock, St. Helens	J. Gardner and J. Rea
21st	Rubery Social, New Road, Rubery, Birmingham	J. Gardner and J. Rea
22nd	Ericssons Sports, Telephone Works, Nottingham	J. Gardner and K. Kennerley
22nd	College Billiards Club, Effingham Street, Rotherham	J. Rea
23rd	Dewsbury Workmen's, Oates Street, Dewsbury, Yorks	J. Gardner and J. Rea
24th	East Dene Social, Doncaster Road, Rotherham	J. Gardner and J. Rea
25th	Shipley Cons., Shipley Hall, Shipley, Yorks	J. Gardner and J. Rea
29th	Wembley Cons., Wembley Hill Road, Wembley, Middx.	J. Rea and K. Kennerley
30th	Ivy Leaf Club, Wellington Road, Uxbridge, Middx.	J. Rea

ADVERTISEMENT

Supersoft Plastic Pants for all ages at 2s. per pair (slight seconds) or 6 pairs 10s. plus postage.
Please state waist size. Also 48 in. plastic sheeting 2s. per yard plus postage. Cash with order, please.
BIMBO PRODUCTS, 84 BURY ROAD, OLD HARLOW, ESSEX

Sherrards — a step forward

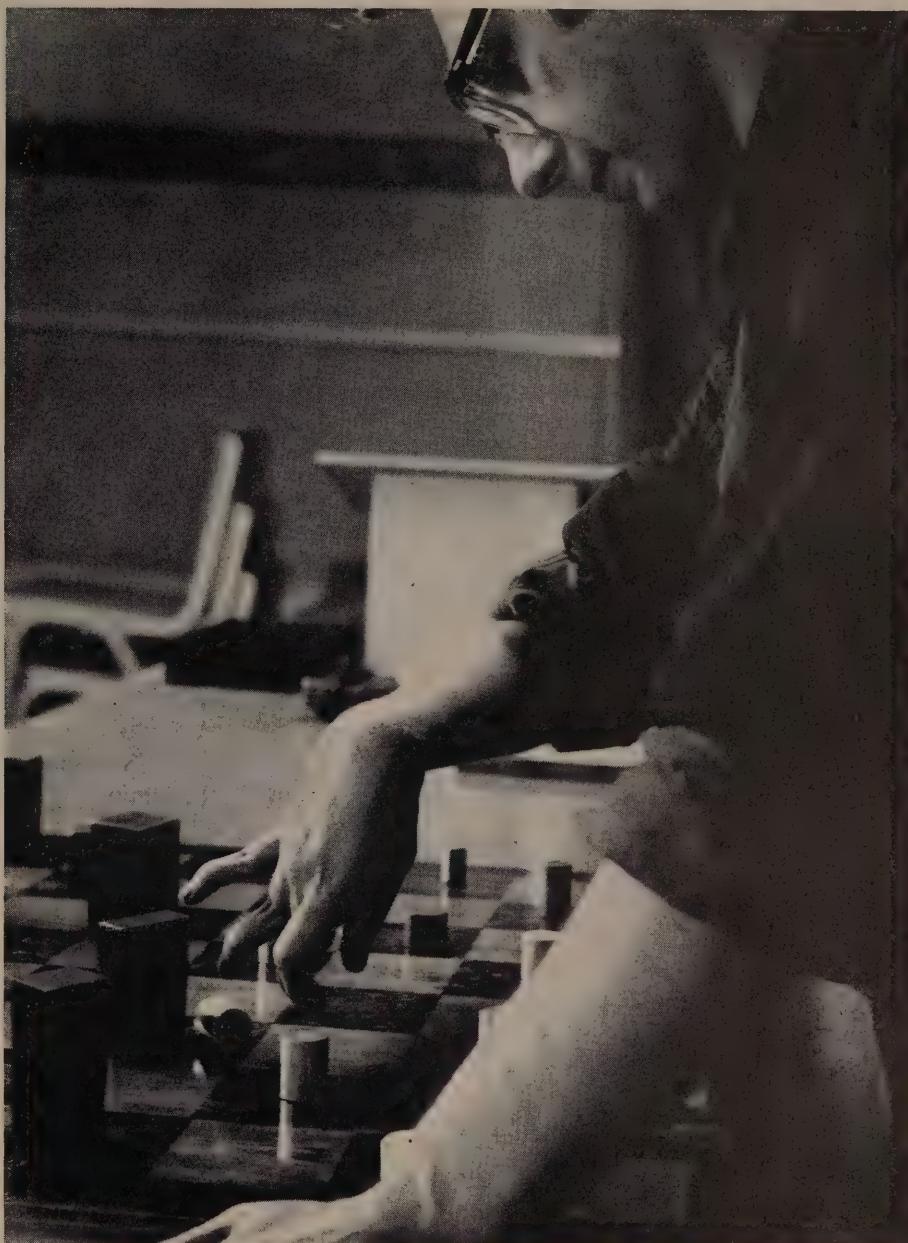
Now recognised by the Ministry of Labour, the factory is making novel and successful use of Occupational Therapy in assisting workers to attain their full potential . . .

by

THERESE APPLEBY

(Reprinted by Courtesy of 'Machinery')

Trainees with handicaps in opposite hands play draughts on an enlarged board. Heavy pieces are used by those with a poor grip, and light blocks by those with a fierce touch, to encourage control



AN occupational therapist in a factory is a new idea but new ideas are inevitable in industry if progress and increased production are to be achieved.

Sherrards, our Industrial Training Centre at Welwyn, Herts, cannot afford to stand still. Every means, every device which might help to train a previously unemployable spastic has to be tried, even though these approaches must sometimes be discarded. The staff at Sherrards and the Society's placement officers have, over the past 10 years, built up a detailed knowledge, based upon practical experience, of how handicapped people can adapt themselves to the requirements of the work bench, and, drawing on that knowledge, Miss Joanna Pitts, who joined them in May, 1965, as occupational therapist, has helped to bring about important changes in the past year.

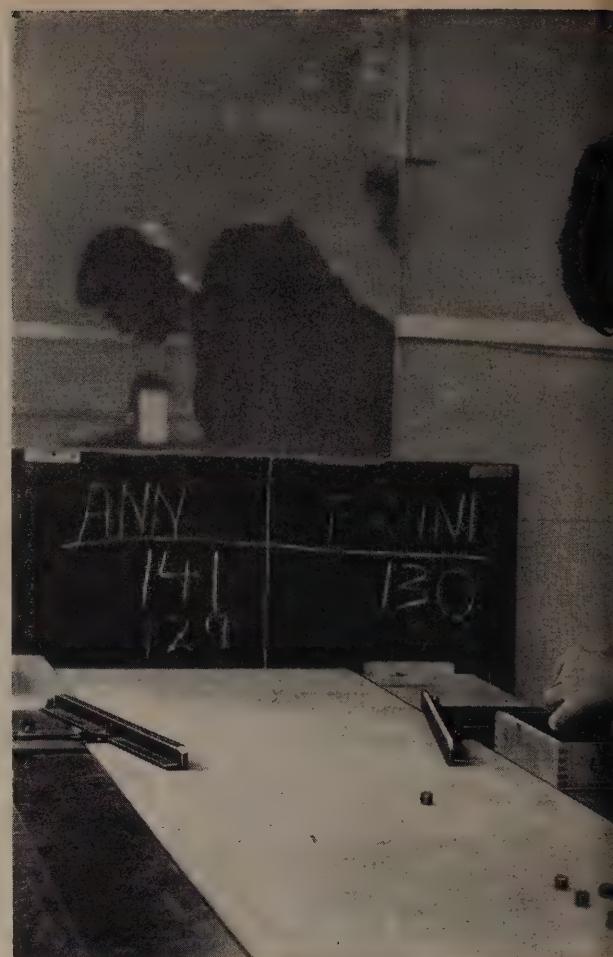
The turnover for contract work increased from £8,000 to £10,000, and the Ministry of Labour has now officially recognised Sherrards as an assessment and preliminary training centre for open employment for spastics.

Although previously about 90 per cent of the trainees went into open employment, officially they were being trained to attain sheltered employment standards. Since it was presumed that their handicaps would prevent them from achieving efficiency standards required by industry and they would otherwise have been unemployable, originally this meant that from Sherrards they would go to work centres run in such a manner as to be non-profitmaking.

However, the success of the past 10 years at the training centre and the achievements of spastics in obtaining and holding down jobs on lathes, tapping, drilling, and engraving



A Trainee gripping the handle of a wrist protractor which enables degrees of wrist movement to be measured



machines, soldering and light assembly work, inspired the principal, Mr. V. King and his training manager, Mr. W. Jones, to think again about the occupations of spastics after training.

Often spastics who went to Sherrards for training were denied the opportunity of trying certain jobs because of a particular type of handicap—sometimes relatively slight in itself but vitally important for the use of certain machines. A slightly deformed hand had never been used, not even to turn a handle; a tightly clenched fist prevented a young man from pulling a lever; an arm that could only be raised to shoulder level and had never made a rotary motion was useless on a machine that needed winding.

With the engagement of Miss Pitts, it was hoped that additional help could be given to the trainees. Generally speaking, occupational therapists are employed in hospitals, to help patients regain independence, in mental hospitals and in rehabilitation centres.

Since the treatment of spastics therapeutically has only developed over the past 15 years, mainly in the fields of physiotherapy and speech therapy, occupational therapists have had little opportunity to adapt their techniques to this field.

To Miss Pitts, who trained at the Lon-

don School of Occupational Therapy, this situation presented a challenge. Her interest in spastics was first evoked when she spent two months in the New York State Rehabilitation Hospital, U.S.A., which has a unit specially for spastics. Then she went to India for a year, to a leprosy settlement, where she initiated schemes to help lepers to find ways of making a living either within the settlement or in their own villages.

The fact that the mind can help the body to achieve results previously thought impossible was made clear to her when, as part of her training, she worked in a psychiatric hospital. In her present work she has found this experience invaluable.

Many of the young people who go to Sherrards for training have spent long hours with therapists, hospitals and doctors. Miss Pitts was able to understand, and eventually overcome, the tremendous hostility trainees felt on their first contact with her—to them it was a step backwards, as though they had escaped the shackles of one type of medical treatment only to find, instead of training for work, another form of treatment.

Hostility proved to be short-lived, however, and to overcome it the occupational therapist had to prove to them that the time spent with her was worthwhile. She had to make the trainees understand that

this experience would be invaluable in the workshop.

She sees each trainee within the first few days of arrival at Sherrards. First a sensory test is given in order to find out how much sensation a trainee has in either hand and in what respects he or she is limited. Then there is an assessment of the upper limbs and, according to the disability, the occupational therapist decides whether treatment is necessary. If so, trainees spend half an hour daily in the therapy room where the treatment is directly related to each trainees' industrial needs.

The first limb assessment test measures the range of movement of shoulder, elbow, wrist and fingers. Flexibility of the shoulder, its ability to rotate and the height to which the arm can be raised and rotated are determined, the elbow is measured for extension, and the hand for rotary movement and for the degree to which the palm can be turned upwards. The wrist is similarly measured and fingers are gauged for gripping and manipulation of components.

A trainee's hand was tightly clenched because she had never been taught to think she could use it. With planned exercises and the use of special equipment the occupational therapist and the girl got to work on the problem until the



(Above, centre) A dummy conveyor belt is used for training in picking up and placing pieces rapidly. As the Trainees become more proficient the belt-speed is increased. (Above) With this drilling simulator a Trainee's ability to locate small holes is determined before he attempts to do jig drilling in the workshops. There are 22 holes of 0.08 in. diameter in the test piece, and pegs are pushed down in these holes by means of a dummy drill

stage was reached, by forcibly gripping handles, when the hand was able to half open. The slight improvement meant the difference between the girl earning her living or being unemployable. She can now pull a lever, work two-handedly and is employed in industry operating a Meddings drill.

At 19 a young man had never turned a door handle, never made rotary motion. The reason was that his right hand had little sensation in it and every time he used a machine he broke a tool.

Equipment on which he learned to make these movements is not on the market. Like most of the other equipment used in the occupational therapy shop, it was made at Sherrards by the staff. Now the young man, through daily practice, can work on a capstan lathe without breaking the tool.

Since few handicaps are identical, by trial and error the training manager and the occupational therapist work out devices to improve the abilities of the trainees. There is no limit to the effort to which they will go, and any aid or device can be designed and produced in the engineering workshop. The device

may have to be modified frequently until the desired results are obtained, and if they fail they start again.

For the first time in their lives trainees who were unable to raise an arm above shoulder level have increased their elevation by as much as 8 in., only a few inches less than for their non-handicapped arms. As a result they can now operate drilling machines, including radial types, and tapping machines.

By means of a machine made in the workshops the rotary motion of an afflicted hand is measured in degrees. In six months one trainee increased his movement from 155 to 180 deg.

Another young man who is a slight right-handed hemiplegic had rarely used his right hand at all. This situation is typical for young people similarly afflicted who tend to conceal their defective hand in order to appear normal. The occupational therapist found the solution by giving him a punch ball to punch with both hands alternatively. Since the ball never stays in the same place it has increased his powers of concentration, physically stimulated him, and made him realise that he can use both hands. As

50 per cent use of the second hand is all that is normally needed, he has now become a two-handed operator.

A simple game of draughts is often the first exercise for a trainee in picking up various weights of different shapes. As soon as he has learned to pick up normally, he is trained to develop other movements to incorporate a greater range and skill. Those who find it easy to pick up large heavy objects gradually learn to grasp smaller lighter ones and those with weak hands start with tiny objects and go on to larger, heavier ones to increase their power and strength.

Athetoids who have wayward, ill-controlled limbs, learn to co-ordinate and control both hands by putting match sticks into cribbage boards, and by screwing up and unscrewing grub screws and control knobs.

Frequently the emphasis has been placed on the disability and not the ability of the trainee. A girl who did not know what to do with her afflicted hand was unable to insert grub screws into position because of shaking. Now that she is able to perform this task she is doing jig drilling and is employed on large assembly work.



TESTING: a Trainee using a rotary planograph which records his progress in rhythmical hand control such as would be necessary on a capstan lathe handle



PLAYING: an enjoyable exercise after the rotary planograph test is racing dolls which travel on a threaded rod, turning handles which are the same size as those on a milling machine

So often it is a question of doing things the right way instead of the wrong way and it is usually much easier for spastics to start off in the wrong way. By working in the right anatomical position, greater control and co-ordination can be achieved.

Mr. King, the principal of Sherrards, who has previously spent his working life in industry believes that many of the improvements that they have brought about could well be applied in industry. He says: 'From my own experience I believe that the ideal solution to improve and increase production in industry would be to employ a planning engineer who has a knowledge of occupational therapy. The right sitting position of an employee means less fatigue and increased production; a wrist rest or an arm rest for tedious work can relieve the strain on the hand and decrease the slowing down of the operator that occurs as the day goes on'.

The achievements of 10 years at Sherrards have culminated in the progress of the past year. Recognition, by the Ministry of Labour, of Sherrards as a training centre for open employment means that many more young spastics will now go into industry. Courses will last from six weeks to about a year, according to the disability, and over 100 spastics will now be trained each year instead of about 35. It will be possible for employers to send



A specially constructed handle-turner is used for general exercises of the upper arm, and for increasing grip. A counter registers the number of turns

spastic staff back to Sherrards for additional training if they wish them to change from one type of work to another and it will also mean that some trainees will take an initial course at Sherrards and then go on to another centre for specialised training.

PHOTOGRAPHS
by
Bernard Mitchell

C.P. SOCIAL WELFARE IN THE U.S.A.

**Miss H. M. Day describes a visit to the U.S.A.
to attend an international conference of
social workers**

MY VISIT TO THE U.S.A. began with a flight by Air India from London to New York, when about twenty Social Workers, all on the way to the Conference in Washington, greatly enjoyed excellent food and service from charming Indian girls in saris. New York travel was pandemonium as there was an air strike on and other services were overloaded and confusion reigned. However, I reached my destination with a family in the hills about 40 miles from Washington, 23 hours after I left home in England.

To live with a family for two weeks is perhaps the best way to learn about a nation's way of life and I was intrigued by, but not easily able to accept, sweet waffles, pancakes to sticky buns for breakfast. I also learned that not all America lives with the rush one hears about from visitors to New York.

With temperatures in or near the 90 degrees, many afternoons were spent at the nearby swimming pool. If the heat was unbearable one could retreat to an air-conditioned room to shiver because they set temperatures too low. I found the English warmly accepted and received much kind hospitality. I was shown a home still furnished in the old colonial style with four-poster beds and a modern kitchen; was taken to a county fair (an agricultural show and fair combined); and sat round the kitchen table cracking spiced Baltimore crabs, said to be a traditional custom there.

I was not allowed to forget work entirely as the dentist with whom I was staying had an unexpected C.P. patient and sought my advice about the patient's reactions.

The holiday part of the trip passed all too quickly and I was soon in Washington for the International Conference of Social Workers. This takes place every two years, and on this occasion was attended by over 2,700 people from over 70 countries. The theme on this occasion was '*Urban Development—Its Implications for Social Welfare*'; gigantic Plenary Sessions dealt with various aspects of this.

I was fortunate in being one of the few selected for one of the special study groups—'*Groups Needing Special Attention—Physically Handicapped*'. A report of our

findings was prepared and will eventually be sent to Governments and other agencies. Though probably nothing new or spectacular came out of our discussions, of primary importance seemed to be the fact that whether we came from Britain or U.S.A., India or Israel, Japan or Mexico, we were all agreed that in future planning every effort should be made to help the handicapped remain in their own homes with adequate local facilities.

Inevitably we had to accept that for some, highly specialised provisions were needed, and that these could not always be local but would require residential provisions in special schools or hospitals. Major problems basic to all dealing with the handicapped from all countries seemed to be those of providing adequate transport and ensuring that housing is planned to make it easy for the handicapped to live at home.

From all over the World

As study groups met for morning and afternoon sessions it was not possible to attend any of the General Meetings or to see some of the films shown. A never ending flow of evening receptions gave us an opportunity to talk at length to those in social work fields all over the world about their agencies and ours and about different methods of work. A vast exhibition hall also enabled us to see the literature produced. The amount of literature available free meant one had to be selective in terms of reading time and weight of luggage for the return journey.

Such a vast gathering was itself an inspiration. We parted after the final meeting concluded with 'Auld Lang Syne' and with warm invitations to visit far corners of the earth. Some will meet again, others never, but most were probably agreed on how much we have in common, especially when discussing human need and how it can be met.

My last week in the States was arranged by Dr. Brewster S. Miller, M.D., of the United Cerebral Palsy Research and Educational Foundation, Inc., the national C.P. organisation to which regional and local associations are affiliated. I visited children's and adult units in Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York and also observed the Cerebral Palsy

Clinic at the Special Surgery Hospital in New York. I continued to find the same warmth of reception and kind hospitality.

By coincidence it happened that I visited units which had been founded or influenced most by the Orthopaedic approach to treatment of cerebral palsy and in consequence I was struck by the extensive use of braces to correct posture from an early age and to attempt to prevent deformities. All ambulant children wore padded leather helmets to protect their heads and some with additional attachments looked as though they were about to take off into space. I learned, however, that there were other theories about treatment and that I had only seen one side. A doctor commenting said that follow up in later years showed little difference in results.

The Day Centre near Baltimore has a development unit for children aged 3-9 years who must be educable or trainable. After fairly intensive therapy and educational help many move on to day or special schools. They also have a Day Care Unit for 3-12-year-olds, all severely handicapped and ineducable. Their day consisted of training periods in feeding, dressing and toilet training; functional therapy—walking in parallel bars and standing tables; music, television, story time, games and rest period. I saw similar facilities in Philadelphia but without treatment.

I was also able to visit the Children's Rehabilitation Institute at Reisterstown. This is linking up with John Hopkins University and will soon move to a new purpose built building in Baltimore. Children, aged 4-14 years, usually stay there for 12 to 18 months. There is an intensive therapy programme and children when they leave there transfer to schools or special hospitals. The centre was established in 1937. Today it costs 9-10,000 dollars per year per child and the staff child ratio is 2:1. I visited two public schools for the physically handicapped but only saw one functioning as the children were on holiday. Both were well equipped and recently built.

The remainder of my visits were to various grades of Sheltered Workshops. One was self-supporting and doing extensive sub-contract work for industry.

Welfare in the U.S.A. (con'd.)

Others were primarily occupational and activities ranged from handicrafts to plastics packing jobs. Most told of fairly intensive vocational guidance courses but though in theory and practise they sounded excellent, all who spoke of them seemed even more impressed by The Spastics Society's work in this respect. There appeared to be far greater difficulty in securing employment for the handicapped and one had the impression that they favoured some sort of legislation such as that in Britain, as at present most employers preferred to give donations than to employ the handicapped. However, some progress in this has been made.

All that I saw and did left me with the impression that as in Britain, much was being done, but that there was still much to be done. I was able to pick up a number of ideas and suggestions which may be of help to some of our centres.

One final interesting comment was that after being told of and seeing a very intensive Assessment and Research Unit for American Servicemen's children, I asked about getting those in Britain referred there. The reply was to the effect that we could still do more through The Spastics Society's Assessments in Britain for these children than they could do at home.

CAR CARE FOR THE INEXPERIENCED VEHICLE OWNER: 1

by A. S. Wilson

TYRE CHECK AND PUNCTURE REPAIR

Your tyres are important to road safety, for yourself and other road users.

Bald tyres are the main cause of skidding, blow-outs and bad road control, especially in bad weather conditions. Main points to check are firstly, check that all your tyres have the correct pounds pressure; secondly, that each wheel is clean of foreign matter by jacking up each wheel and inspecting them each week. Tyres should not be cleaned with spirits as it rots the rubber. When tyres are being cleaned, soapy water should be used.

When a flat tyre needs to be

repaired, it is not necessary to send it to the garage. When repairing, loosen off securing bolts, but do not remove them. Then jack up the vehicle and remove the bolts. Remove wheel and deflate tyre and remove valve core with special attachment on valve cover. Place the tyre on a bench and push the part of the tyre that is nearest the metal wheel into the centre. Then place the three tyre levers under the tyre lip three inches apart and pull top end to centre of wheel. Remove centre lever and push it under the lip three inches from the third lever and do this all the way round.

When you finish, remove inner tube, then refit valve and inflate. Pass the inner tube through a bowl of water and, on seeing air bubbles, mark it with chalk, then follow the instructions as described in the repair kit.

Then to replace tube as follows:- Replace inner tube in outer casing without twisting it, then kneel on the tyre opposite the valve and refit casing by using the tyre levers as before but in reverse, taking care not to pinch the inner tube. Then refit to car, place wheel on the hub and replace the bolts finger tight. Then remove the jack and then tighten them up tight with a wheel brace which is incorporated in tool kit.

RUNNING IN PERIOD

If you have just got an invalid car it is most important to run it in properly for the first one thousand miles. If this is not done it will bring you a lot of trouble later on because your engine will wear out more quickly and may seize up or cause an accident if it seizes up. I am sure in my own mind that in the first five hundred miles it is important to treat your engine as if it were a new born baby. When the first five hundred miles are up, the car should be taken to the garage from which you got it for a check up on bolts, oil and other points.

BUSMEN TAKE SPASTICS TO SEA-SIDE



This happy group of spastic children and adults is pictured on the departure for a trip to Skegness. The outing was generously organised by the Manager and Staff of the Victoria Service Station, in Leicester, who ran raffles at the beginning of the summer to raise the money for the outing

CARDIFF DAY CENTRE IS OPENED

15 Years' Work Rewarded

AMID GREAT LOCAL ENTHUSIASM, the Day Centre in Cyncoed Road, Cardiff, was opened by the Lord Mayor, Alderman H. E. Edmonds, in the presence of a large number of officials and well-wishers.

It was fifteen years ago that Mr. and Mrs. C. Jones of Keppoch Street, Cardiff, with two other parents started a campaign for spastics, and this Centre, described as temporary, but costing around £8,000, has opened its doors for the care of twelve spastics in the surrounding area who will be brought by ambulance from their homes for training and education.

Mr. George Thomas, Minister of State, Welsh Office, who was an early supporter of the Jones's said: 'This Centre was established so that these little ones who have been born handicapped may have a better chance in life'.

It took over from a two-room centre in Partridge Road which the Association has rented for the last seven years, and will be beside the new £75,000 Family Help Unit which is to be started on the site in a month.

Mr. F. N. Boddy, Chairman of Cardiff and District Spastics Association, said the climate of the Centre is that of the



The Lord and Lady Mayoress are welcomed at the Centre: (L. to R.), Mr. P. S. Northam (Chairman of the Management Committee), Mr. M. R. H. Stopford (Deputy Development Secretary), Mr. F. N. Boddy (Chairman), the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Cardiff, Mrs. F. N. Boddy and Mrs. D. Cottle (Appeals Secretary)

nursery and elementary school and they hope to provide specialised facilities for the whole of South Wales.

There are a fully-equipped modern kitchen, especially equipped toilets, a small office and a large classroom which can be converted into three smaller rooms.

They will also have the benefit of special therapeutic equipment provided by Professor Watkins. The Mayor summed up this success story by saying: 'This Day Centre is a permanent example of the challenge we have to face—it is a story of love and dedication'.



The Lady Mayoress, Mrs. Edmonds, presents the Key of the Centre to a founder member



The pupils at the Centre all took part in a sing-song, some with severely limited speech also made a valiant effort to join in



I went to the *Morning Star* at Wolverton with Jill Browne where she had been invited to 'knock over' their fifth Beacon collection. The column of pennies reached from the bar to the ceiling and as usual made a tremendous clatter as it fell. Mr. and Mrs. Howe, the landlord and his wife, once again entertained everybody most generously. (See picture above.)

* * *

The last time I had the pleasure of meeting Joan Regan was when she appeared in the cabaret at the S.O.S. Ball in Man-

chester last year. I was therefore delighted to collect her at her home and to have the opportunity of meeting her again. She introduced me to her husband who unfortunately was unable to come with us being on duty that night—he is, of course, a doctor. Joan 'knocked over' a pile of pennies at *The Woodman*, Sidcup. This money has been mainly collected by

Mr. Sellick, one of the customers, with the strong support of Mrs. Jones the landlady.

* * *

On a sunny Saturday afternoon I drove with Wilfred and Mabel Pickles and Jean Aubrey to meet Stephanie Voss at the Welwyn Garden City Fair. The artists were invited to help on the various stalls and this they did most willingly. A proportion of the money raised by this event is given to Wakes Hall and Colwall Court.



I have made two trips to Wakes Hall, once to meet Sylvia Sims, who received on behalf of the S.O.S., a beautiful new mini-bus presented by the Friends of Wakes Hall, seen above with Sylvia and the Warden, Mr. E. Chapleo, and once with John Horsley. On the latter occasion, when I met Derek Lancaster-Gaye, the Development Secretary of The Spastics Society, the garden was looking very pretty

the Stars in their Courses—*News of the*

STARS ORGANISATION FOR SPASTICS

collected by
'THE CALLBOY'

I have been having a great deal of correspondence with Jack Howarth who is again, with his wife Betty, organising the Ball at the Midland Hotel, Manchester on 9th November, on behalf of the S.O.S. Jack particularly asks me to invite anybody interested in attending the Ball to get in touch with him at the Midland Hotel.

* * *

Jean Aubrey and I were very pleased to visit a Beacon Club collecting house, *The Nine Stiles*, at New Denham, to receive a cheque for the Beacon Club bringing the total amount collected by this house to £239. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, the landlord and his wife, have on several occasions been awarded Watney's prize for the prettiest and best kept house owned by the brewers.

* * *

A fairly long drive to Bordon in Hampshire to visit the *Halfway House* was well worthwhile for Avril Angers and myself as the landlord and his customers were obviously thrilled when Avril arrived there. An enormous Beacon was knocked over and the landlord and his wife were delighted to receive a tie and brooch.

* * *

Susan Hampshire and I made a journey into the City one evening to visit the showrooms of a carpet company where the owners were organising a trade carpet competition. Susan very kindly agreed to act as one of the judges and we spent an interesting time learning about the manufacturing of carpets. A donation is being given to S.O.S. funds in return for Susan's visit.

* * *

I was delighted to have the opportunity of meeting Alan Freeman again when I collected him at his house to go to the East End to visit the *Albion* public house, E.15. We spent a splendid hour meeting the landlord, Mr. Montgomery, and his customers. Afterwards as neither of us had eaten we stopped and bought fish and chips—we both agreed it was the best we had ever had.

* * *

On a wet Friday night I made another long car journey with Sylvia Syms, this time to Harlow where she attended the



Miss Hazell enjoys musicals

Hy Hazell—STAR OF THE MONTH

Hy HAZELL was born in Streatham Hill. From an early age she was determined on a stage career and at 12 won a gold medal in an elocution competition. A little later, unknown to her mother, she took an audition card which arrived for one of her elder sisters and got a job in the chorus of an American musical called 'On Your Toes'. But her mother did not allow her to accept it.

Very early in her career, she joined E.N.S.A. and toured all over the world with shows for the Forces. She was the first woman to travel to Malaya and Korea to entertain the troops.

She has appeared in many West End of London productions including a Palladium Revue with Tommy Trinder. She also played the lead in 'Ten Men and A Miss' with Frank Leighton at the Ald-

wych Theatre, 'Ilonka', the glamorous Hungarian countess in 'Keep in a Cool Place', with Roger Livesey, in 'Dead on Nine', opposite Griffith Jones at The Westminster Theatre, that controversial play 'Tea and Sympathy' at The Comedy Theatre, and 'Dixie Collins' in 'Expresso Bongo', one of her greatest successes with Paul Scofield.

Prefers playing straight drama but seems to be landed with musicals which she thoroughly enjoys.

A 'rich mouse' blonde she enjoys wearing different coloured wigs on stage to change her personality—red for 'Lock Up Your Daughters', black for 'Charlie Girl', white as Catherine the Great.

Joined S.O.S. in 1955 and became Chairman of Colwall Court on retirement of David Jacobs.

midnight charity performance of the 'Great Race' arranged by the Halstead Round Table on behalf of Wakes Hall. Sylvia was very disappointed she was unable to stay and see the film but her daughter had that day contracted tonsilitis and she was anxious to get home. However, despite this extreme anxiety Sylvia had, as promised, worn her most beautiful evening dress, which was white covered in Chinese embroidery. On arrival she received a tremendous reception and everyone was especially grateful to her for attending when they heard of her daughter's illness.

* * *

Christmas is once again approaching as we were all reminded when Ron Goodwin called a meeting of the United Charities Fair sub-Committee. He was pleased that Mrs. Leo Franklyn, Mrs. Norrie Paravour, Mrs. Johnnie Stewart, Mrs. Cyril Stapleton, Mrs. Bob Sharples and his own wife were present. All the ladies brought gifts they had collected and promised to encourage other members to do the same, it being agreed that, based on last year's experience, small toilet articles and baby goods were the most saleable.

* * *

Once again I met Jean Aubrey, this time to make a short journey to Mr. and Mrs.

Lock's house, *The Waggon and Horses*, in Wandsworth. Jean received a great welcome from everybody present and was very pleased to be handed a cheque for £100 which had been collected by raffles.

* * *

A visit to the Festival Hall with a party of residents from Wakes Hall was my first visit to see the Festival Ballet's performance of 'Swan Lake'. During the interval we met the Deputy Director of the Ballet who obtained the autographs of the

Prima Ballerinas, Galina Samsova and Irina Borowska.

* * *

Hy Hazell made a special journey to Eastbourne on the 31st August to attend the annual concert organised by the Eastbourne Silver Band on behalf of Colwall Court. It was not possible for me to meet her as I was on holiday that week and so Mr. Marsh, the manager, accompanied her on this occasion.

The Callboy



Roy Castle very kindly met me at the 'Green Man' at Sutton to 'knock over' two Beacons which had been collected in the bars. The total amount raised was £126 which had been collected by the licensee, Mrs. Nissen and her daughter, bringing the total amount collected at this house to £417. (See picture right)

the disabled write on

—THE NEED TO BE NEEDED

STIGMA

EDITED BY PAUL HUNT
(Geoffrey Chapman, 25s.)

WHAT DOES IT FEEL like to be disabled? How does one learn to accept, and adapt, to this condition? Is this easier for those who were 'born that way' or for those who were stricken later on in life? What hurts and irritates them in the approach of the rest of us? Why are we afraid? Why do so many of us show, often unconsciously, that we believe that the physically disabled are also stupid, or deaf, or worse? Why in short do we show such lack of imagination and understanding when we meet them? Are we right to segregate so many of them in clubs or homes or centres *for the disabled*, or for one particular form of disablement? What does it feel like to be disabled?

This is a collection of essays by twelve disabled men and women. All are moving: all are well written in the plainest of English: all show much more understanding of our difficulties than we do of theirs. The blurb on the cover claims that 'this book is not just for doctors and social workers. It should be read by anyone with a social conscience'. It should: and also by those without; and much of it will be of help to the disabled themselves and to their families. Moreover, the problems, the feelings, the needs it illuminates apply not only to the physically disabled but to other groups of the 'different'—the old, the mentally ill, and many others. An appendix by Phyllis Willmott describes in simple terms, the help, especially the financial help, available and the many anomalies in its provision.

The questions which these essays provoke are far too numerous to mention here: they could provide material for years of discussion and debate. Some points, however, stand out because they crop up so often. The importance of thinking about the disabled, and dealing with them, as people, as individuals, and not as cases or statistics—'A cripple is an object of Christian charity, a socio-medical problem . . . a target for busy-bodies, and a means by which prosperous citizens assuage their consciences. He is pitied and ignored, helped and patronised, understood and stared at. But he is hardly ever taken seriously as a man'. The effect on husband (or wife) and children, and the consequent feeling of guilt which

often adds to the burden of the sufferer. Above all, the need to be needed and of use—"The very best medicine that can be given to a disabled person is the knowledge that he or she is wanted"—and, one might add, entitled to give as well as receive.

Buy this book. Read, mark, learn and inwardly digest it. If you can't afford to buy it, borrow, or even steal it.

A.N.C.B.

FUN WITH PAPER MODELLING

BY G. C. PAYNE
(Edmund Ward, 13s. 6d.)

THIS BOOK SHOWS how great enjoyment may be derived, at very low cost, from making models and masks out of paper. Written for young people in a concise style, it is lavishly illustrated with photographs and easy-to-follow diagrams.

Although not specifically aimed at the handicapped, it provides a new angle on the eternal problems of occupying the chair-bound child. Those working on their own at home would probably prefer to make the simple designs, such as pigs, fish or Easter eggs modelled over inflated balloons. Strips of newspaper are pasted over the core until a substantial layer has been built up. When the work is dry, the balloon is deflated and withdrawn, leaving a spherical shape which can be decorated according to choice.

The more ambitious models, constructed over plasticine or wire, might perhaps be tackled in classes where an art teacher or occupational therapist could direct the intricacies of shaping moulds, cutting out cardboard or twisting wire frames. Although the finishing touches might also need to be painted on with an expert hand, most children will be able to enjoy the gluing process and even those with less nimble fingers can participate by tearing up strips of paper ready for pasting.

Masks and puppet heads can be made in this way, giving scope for really imaginative drama. In fact, as the author says, there is no end to the possibilities of paper modelling, and once given a start by this book, readers will no doubt be encouraged to go ahead with new ideas of their own.

A.P.



Mrs. Eileen Woodward

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Eileen Mary Woodward who was a founder-member of the Epping Forest and District Branch of The Spastics Society, of which she was later made a life vice-president.

When she made up her mind to 'do something' for spastics locally, nothing daunted her. At that time the busy mother of three young children, she untiringly set about all the many activities involved—seeking the spastics—finding premises—equipment—staff—transport, etc., and those of us privileged to help in the early days, readily admit that it was her driving force which resulted in the successful formation of the Group, and the early founding of a day nursery and clinic for the treatment of young spastics.

None of us achieved the high standard of endeavour she set herself, but what an inspiration she was to us all! Ever ready with wise counsel, practical help, and ingenious ideas for money-raising activities which she most energetically brought to fruition.

A large gathering of friends attended the funeral service at St. Mary's Loughton, a most moving expression of sympathy from the many groups and associations in which she was interested. As well as the many floral tributes, cheques have been received by the family for the Charity which was so dear to her.

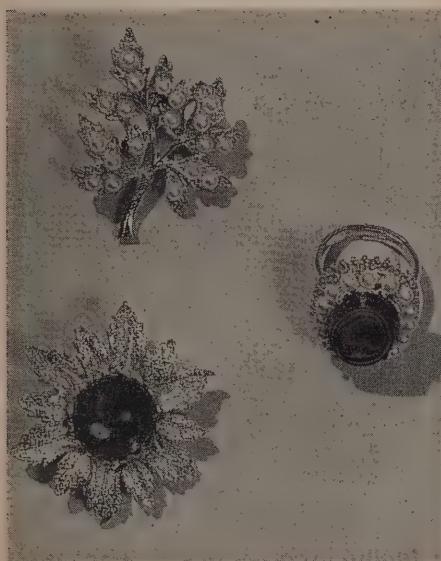
Her friends have lost a loyal and dedicated comrade, and during the last weeks of a long and painful illness the deeply impressive fortitude and courage which she displayed was another striking testament of a serene and gallant spirit.

Her splendid memorial will be the Treatment Centre for children at Buckhurst Hill, the Occupational Therapy Class for older spastics at Woodford, and the continuing interest and support of a group of people she inspired to help further the welfare of all spastics and their families whenever possible.

We regret that you still have to worry about Uncle Egbert . . .

—BUT, for your female friends and relations, we have got the answer to your Christmas Present Problem—

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- J9 An inexpensive sun ray design. 22 carat gold plated setting with brilliant centre cabochon stone. Available in Topaz (smoky yellow). Aqua blue. Ruby Red. (Bottom left)

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(Perhaps Uncle Egbert will too!)

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Ponds Holidays Have an International Flavour

BEFORE THE SUMMER HOLIDAY quite a lot of travelling took place. The first person was Derrick Ireland, who went to a conference in Sweden to exchange ideas. The next one to go away from Ponds was Julie Cains, who went on a pilgrimage to Lourdes and had a very good time. Also, I myself went to Coombe Farm Centre for four weeks. I did an exchange with a chap called Michael Wash. We both enjoyed our experiences. Raymond Parsons was chosen to go on a tour of Denmark and Italy with spastics to see if there was any future in tour holidays for us at Ponds. Last, but not least, Malcolm Tredinnick went up to Nottingham to take part in a conference. All these people gave us talks when they came back.

On 25th July a party of Swedish people, consisting of about half spastics, came here to Ponds. They were staying in England for a few weeks and they were at two Centres, Birmingham and Oakwood. They thought it would be a good idea if half-way through the holiday they

changed over Centres, and they chose to meet at Ponds en route. This was a good idea because some of the Ponds' 'family' went to Sweden last year, so they could act as hosts and hostesses. It was a great success and I think they all enjoyed it very much indeed. It is a pity more of this sort of thing cannot be arranged as it is a good way of exchanging ideas.

A little while after the Swedish visit we had another visitor, this time from Japan—a student called Tomoko Konishi who wanted to experience English home life. During her stay she was very kind in demonstrating the Japanese Tea Ceremony.

On 3rd August, Ponds broke up for the summer holiday. Some people went to Westcliff, others to Rockleaze Holiday Home in Devon, and others went home. I was very lucky because I went to Austria for two weeks with one of the House Companions and his friend. Next month I would like to write a short article on my impressions of Austria.

The first interesting thing that happened on our return after the holiday was a visit from 'Miss Tasmania'. She wanted to see an adult spastic centre and we were very lucky that she chose Ponds.

The last item is particularly interesting to myself. It is the Lustraphone Speech Amplifier. I will try to describe what it actually does. This piece of equipment was invented by Dr. Jensen, who originally came from Denmark. He worked with spastic children of all disabilities and he got the bright idea of inventing a machine which would help the spastic children whose speech had insufficient power to make an audible voice. To operate the machine you place the microphone next to the larynx on your neck under the collar, and the 'mike' picks up the little voice you have and amplifies it so that it comes out pretty clear. As my speech is a bit quiet they have decided to let me experiment with it for a few weeks. I think it will be successful.

Well, readers, I do hope you have enjoyed reading my news, and I will try to interest you further next month with an article all about Austria. So this is your Ponds correspondent signing off.

LINTON EDWARDS.



Mr. J. Pettican sends us this picture of his desk specially adapted for art work, with the top set for drawing or painting and a short hinged flap affixed below to take art materials



Death of Mrs. G. I. Williams

THE SOCIETY has suffered a great loss in the death at a comparatively early age of Councillor Mrs. Gwynneth I. Williams, O.B.E., the Founder Chairman of the Merthyr Tydfil and District Spastics Society and a member of the Consultative Committee of The Spastics Society.

It was largely due to Mrs. Williams' drive and initiative that the local society has been able to raise nearly £30,000 after only ten years work. The constant support given to the Society by the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council was due wholly to Mrs. Williams. She was tremendously disappointed when plans to set up a junior day centre in Merthyr Tydfil had to be abandoned in 1963, but she reacted characteristically by instilling fresh enthusiasm in the local committee and by setting into operation plans to establish an adult work centre instead.

Work on this new centre will commence within three months and it is tragic that Mrs. Williams will not be present to see her life's ambition realised.

Mr. S. H. Tutty

IT IS WITH DEEP REGRET we inform you that Mr. S. H. Tutty, Honorary Treasurer of the Slough & District Spastics Welfare Society, died on 21st September, 1966. Many of the Groups in the Northern Home Counties Region will be familiar with Mr. Tutty's excellent work and support over a number of years, in fact, he was one of the early pioneers in our work.

His sincerity of purpose was reflected in the quiet and efficient manner in which he pursued the task despite the personal problems involved as a parent of a severely handicapped spastic. He gave wholeheartedly and with humility.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Mrs. V. G. Tutty, one of our active members, well known to us all.

CHESTER SPORTS DAY

Dear Editor,

On Tuesday, 26th July, the trainees at the Chester Office Training Centre had a day off for their Annual Sports Day. The weather was not kind to us and our annual five-a-side football match was rather unusual in that lunch was served at half-time in addition to the usual pieces of orange, for it was not until after lunch that the weather was good enough to allow us to play off the second-half. The match was won for the third time running by Stockport branch again! I think this is mainly because Humphrey Dearden, an ex-trainee who comes up specially for this five-a-side football match, always plays for Stockport; and because of his height, weight and experience, Stockport are almost bound to win. Mrs. R. Dowler, commercial instructress from Sherrards, was present, and most graciously presented the cup to the captain of Stockport team, and medals to all players and the referee (Mr. R. Warren). We played netball with an 'A' and 'B' team; we ran races; had an obstacle race and a tug-of-war match. We had to have some indoor games when the rain came down. The trainees proved quite proficient at dancing and there was nothing half-hearted about their singing either. To round off the day, we had an evening trip through the Wirral to New

Brighton. We were only able to spend one hour there and this was spent mainly in the fairground where there was a frantic rush to sample all they had to offer. We returned to Chester tired but still singing, having spent a most enjoyable day in spite of the weather. (This report was squeezed out of a previous issue—Apologies!—Ed.)

By the two Susans, FOSTER and COOMBS, The Spastics Society, Chester Office Training Centre, Blacon.

WE SHALL MISS JOE WATSON

Dear Editor,

As colleagues of Joe Watson from the earliest days of the Society's life, my wife and I were inexpressibly shocked to hear of his sudden and tragic death.

It is given to few men to conceal under a cloak of gay nonchalance such deep humanity and inner friendliness of spirit as characterised Joe Watson's relationship to his fellows.

The Spastics Society has lost a uniquely gifted servant and the staff and residents of Prested Hall an inspiration and a close and understanding friend.

Staff conferences will be the poorer and duller without the impish wit and profound philosophy supplied by the Warden of Prested Hall.

There can be few people who came into close contact with Joe Watson who

(Continued overleaf)



SALISBURY & DISTRICT ENTERTAIN

Local spastics of Salisbury district were recently entertained by the Association in the garden of Mrs. Joyce Smith, the Chairman. After an afternoon tour of the New Forest in the coach of the Salisbury Club for the P.H., they sat down to tea, at which Miss Charmian Mould (Wessex Region Officer) and Mr. R. Jenkinson (third and fourth from right), were present

cannot recall numerous acts of kindness and consideration.

His monument will be the many lives going about today's business with courage and hope gained at his hands.

Yours sincerely, FRANCIS W. BOWYER,
Villa Renny, 46 Route Sidi Amar, Djmaa el Mokra, Tangier, Morocco.

'I SAW THE SEVERN BRIDGE OPENED—ON T.V.'

Dear Editor,

On Thursday, 8th September, the Severn Bridge was opened by the Queen. We all went into the new assembly hall to watch it on television.

We saw all the crowds who had come to watch the ceremony, then the Queen arrived and met the important people, and the Minister of Transport, Mrs. Barbara Castle was there.

The Queen inspected the Gloucester Regiment and after she had made a speech, she opened the bridge and drove across it to the Welsh side. There she inspected the Guard of Honour and unveiled a plaque. She then returned to the Bristol side where she had lunch.

The Severn Bridge is important because it shortens the journey between England and Wales and it makes it easier for some of us to get home.

We all enjoyed watching the opening, and now we are looking forward to going over the bridge for the first time. It looks a beautiful bridge.

Yours sincerely, ANDREW DARLING,
Craig-y-Parc, Pentyrch, Cardiff.

Not Much for the Handicapped at the Do-it-Yourself Exhibition

NOT ALL THE STANDS were ready, when I visited this show, but among those that were open, there did not appear to be anything particularly revolutionary. The following items were noted, however:—

Knitmaster Knitting Machines

This now does Fair-Isle and other patterns incorporating more than one colour. The machine is very easy to use and some of our spastic home-workers have been using this model for several years.

Bernina Sewing Machines

I was attracted to this stand by a number of colourful pictures hanging up, which had been worked in embroidery and appliquéd on the machines. They are electric models, very simple to use, but seemed rather expensive. However, a considerable reduction is given for schools.

Another form of picture that caught my eye, was a 'Make Your Own Abstracts' set. The demonstration had not yet started and no leaflets were available but the pictures appeared to be done

with metal shapes dipped into different coloured paint. There were some attractive designs hanging up but I feel that this would be very much of a 'Nine-days' Wonder' type of amusement. There is a limit to the number of abstracts which could be turned out in one household before everyone got fed up with the craze.

Instant Works of Art seem to be very fashionable at the moment. There was also a stand showing 'Klay Play' sets, by which special clays are worked into 'Fillup' panels, to produce a kind of plasticine base-relief. I thought these were quite hideous!

There was nothing I could see in the field of home decoration that could not be seen in any good furniture or wallpaper shop—certainly no new ideas.

(by Our Roving Reporter)

Pathological Changes in the Nervous System in Severe Neo Natal Hypoglycaemia

(*The Lancet*, August 1966)

In full-term and premature babies the normal blood-glucose during the first few days of life is in the range 30-60 mg. per 100 ml. and blood-glucose levels of less than 20 mg. per 100 ml. are regarded as abnormal. Although transient hypoglycaemia may occur without apparent ill-effects it is now known that prolonged hypoglycaemia in the neonatal period may lead to death or to survival with microcephaly, mental retardation and various degrees of cerebral palsy.

Two case-histories were given, of infants who died at a few weeks old.

Paper published by: L. M. Anderson, M.B.(St. And.), M.C.Path., Department of Neuropathology, The Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, S.E.5; R. D. G. Milner, M.B.(Lond.), M.R.C.P., Nuffield Neonatal Research Unit, Institute of Child Health, Hammersmith Hospital, W.12; Sabina J. Strich, D.M.(Oxon), M.C.Path., Department of Neuropathology, Institute of Psychiatry, The Maudsley Hospital, S.E.5.

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